

Digital Editions

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This digital guide to East Yorkshire is published in PDF format which means that you can browse the guide page by page or simply search for specific villages or towns (see pages 4 and 5). You can also print off individual pages of your choice if you are planning a visit to a particular area of East Yorkshire or, alternatively, the whole of the digital guide.

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We do hope you like using this version of the *Country Living* rural guide and that it helps you enjoy exploring the wonderful county of East Yorkshire. We are always interested in receiving comments on places covered (or not covered) in our guides so please do not hesitate to give us your considered comments by e-mailing us on info@travelpublishing.co.uk.

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Guide to Rural England

EAST YORKSHIRE



WHERE TO GO | WHAT TO SEE | WHAT TO DO
WHERE TO STAY | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO BUY

Fully illustrated with detailed directions and maps

LOCATOR MAP



Towns and Villages

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East Yorkshire

“Fold upon fold of encircling hills, piled rich and golden” – such was the author Winifred Holtby’s fond memory of the Wolds landscape. She was born in 1898 in Rudston on the northern edge of the Wolds, a village dominated by the prehistoric Rudston Monolith. This colossal block of stone, a daunting symbol of some misty pagan belief, stands challengingly close to Rudston’s Christian parish church. Twenty-five feet (7.6m) high, it is the tallest standing stone in Britain. Winifred Holtby left the village and became a leading figure in London literary circles, editor of the influential magazine *Time and Tide*, but in her own books it was those “rich and golden hills” that still enthralled her. In her most successful novel, *South Riding*, the fictional Riding is unmistakably recognisable as the Wolds among whose gently rolling acres she had spent her childhood.

The Wolds are a great crescent of chalk hills that sweep round from the coast near

Flamborough Head



Sewerby Hall, Bridlington



Flamborough Head to the outskirts of Hull. There were settlers here some 10,000 years ago – but never very many. In the early 1700s, Daniel Defoe described the area as “very thin of towns and people” and also noted the “great number of sheep”. Little has changed: the Wolds remain an unspoiled tract of scattered farmsteads and somnolent villages with one of the lowest population densities in the country. Artists remark on the striking quality of the

light and air, and on the long views that open up, perhaps across undulating hills to the twin towers of Beverley Minster or to the great towers of the Minster at York. The Wolds never rise above 800 feet, but the open landscape makes them particularly vulnerable to winter snowstorms: children have been marooned in their schools; the dipping and twisting country roads, even in recent years, have been blocked for weeks at a time.

The southeastern corner of Yorkshire tends to be overlooked by many visitors. If only they knew what they were missing, Beverley is one of the most beguiling of Yorkshire towns and its Minster one of the greatest glories of Gothic architecture. Its parish church, built by a medieval guild, rivals the Minster in its grandeur and in its colourful interior. The whole town has the indefinable dignity you might expect from a community that was a capital of the East Riding in former days when Hull, just six miles to the south, was still a rather scruffy little port.

To the east and south of Beverley lies the old Land of Holderness, its character quite different from anywhere else in Yorkshire. A wide plain, it stretches to the coast where for aeons the land has been fighting an incessant, and losing, battle against the onslaught of North Sea billows. The whole length of the Holderness coast is being eroded at an average rate of three inches a year, but in some locations up to three feet or more gets gnawed



Spurn Head

away. At its southernmost tip, Spurn Point curls around the mouth of the Humber estuary, a cruelly exposed tip of land whose contours get rearranged after every winter storm. The coastal towns and villages have a bleached and scoured look to them, perhaps a little forbidding at first. It doesn't take long however for visitors to succumb to the appeal of this region of wide vistas, secluded villages and lonely shores.

Selby is the most southerly of the eight districts that make up the vast, sprawling county of North Yorkshire. Here, the level plains of the Vale of York stretch for miles – rich, agricultural land watered by the four great Yorkshire rivers, Ouse, Wharfe, Derwent and Aire, and by the Selby Canal. It is ideal country for walking and cycling, or for exploring the waterways on which a wide variety of rivercraft is available for hire. Just a few miles away, on the other side of the River Aire, traffic on the M62 hurtles between Leeds and Hull, but here you can still find quiet villages, inviting hostels, and one of the country's most flamboyant stately homes, Carlton Towers.

Bridlington

Priory Sewerby Hall Bayle Museum

Lifeboats Beside the Seaside

Bondville Miniature Village

Bridlington lies at the northern tip of the crescent of hills that form the Wolds. The old town lies a mile inland from the bustling seaside resort with its manifold visitor amusements and attractions that has been understandably popular since early Victorian times. The attractions of a vast, 10-mile stretch of sandy beach distract most visitors from the less obvious beauties of **Bridlington Priory** in the old town. The Priory was once one of the wealthiest in England, but it was ruthlessly pillaged during the Reformation. Externally it is somewhat unprepossessing, but step inside and the majestic 13th-century nave is unforgettably impressive. A corner of the Priory churchyard recalls one of the most tragic days in the town's history. During a fearsome gale in January 1871, a whole fleet of ships foundered along the coast. Bridlington's lifeboat was launched but within minutes it was "smashed to matchwood": most of its crew perished. Twenty bodies were washed ashore and later buried in the Priory churchyard: it was estimated that 10 times as many souls found a watery grave. This awesome tragedy is still recalled each year with a solemn service of remembrance when the lifeboat is drawn through the town.

Queen Henrietta Maria's visit to Bridlington was not as tragic, but it was certainly exciting. In February 1643, she landed here on a Dutch ship laden with arms and aid for her beleaguered husband, Charles I. Parliamentary naval vessels were in hot pursuit and, having failed to capture their quarry, bombarded the town. Their cannon balls actually hit the Queen's lodgings.

Henrietta was forced to take cover in a ditch where, as she reported in a letter to her husband, "the balls sang merrily over our heads, and a sergeant was killed not 20 paces from me". At this point Her Majesty deemed it prudent to retreat to the safety of Boynton Hall, three miles inland and well beyond the range of the Parliamentary cannons.

These stirring events, and many others in the long history of Bridlington and its people, are vividly brought to life with the help of evocative old paintings, photographs and artefacts in the **Bayle Museum**. Quite apart from its fascinating exhibits, the museum is well worth visiting for its setting inside the old gatehouse to the town, built around 1390. The building is Grade I listed and a scheduled ancient monument.

Beside the Seaside is an all-weather venue where visitors can sit in a Victorian carriage or take a promenade through Bridlington's heyday as a resort, sampling the sights, sounds



Bridlington Priory

and characters of a seaside town. Film shows and period amusements such as antique coin-in-the-slot games and a Punch and Judy Show, displays reconstructing a 1950s boarding house as well as the town's maritime history – the museum provides a satisfying experience for both the nostalgic and those with a general curiosity about the town's past.

On the northern outskirts of Bridlington is **Sewerby Hall**, a monumental mansion built on the cusp of the Queen Anne and early Georgian years, between 1714 and 1720. Set in 50 acres of garden and parkland (where there's also a small zoo), the house was first opened to the public in 1936 by Amy Johnson, the dashing, Yorkshire-born pilot who had captured the public imagination by her daring solo flights to South Africa and Australia. The Museum of East Yorkshire here houses some fascinating memorabilia of Amy's pioneering

feats along with displays of motor vehicles, archaeological finds and some remarkable paintings, among which is perhaps the most famous portrait of Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I. Queen Henrietta loved this romantic image of herself as a young, carefree woman, but during the dark days of the Civil War she felt compelled to sell it to raise funds for the doomed Royalist cause that ended with her husband's execution. After passing through several hands, this haunting portrait of a queen touched by tragedy found its last resting place at Sewerby Hall.

Close by is **Bondville Miniature Village**, one of the finest model villages in the country. The display includes more than 1,000 handmade and painted characters, over 200 individual and unique villages, and carefully crafted scenes of everyday life, all set in a beautifully landscaped one-acre site. The

THE BELMONT GUEST HOUSE

27 Flamborough Road, Bridlington,
East Yorkshire YO15 2HU

Tel: 01262 673808

e-mail: thebelmonthotel@fsmail.net

website: www.belmont-bridlington.co.uk

Bridlington is an excellent choice for a traditional seaside holiday and the **Belmont Guest House** provides a very friendly, relaxed base. Owned and run by Sue and Robert Bennett, the house enjoys a pleasant setting half a mile from the town centre on the Flamborough Road, a short stroll from the beautiful North Beach.

The guest accommodation comprises family, double, twin and single rooms, all with en suite facilities, TV and hospitality with tea, coffee and biscuits. The day starts with breakfast, served between 8 and 9 in the dining room, with the choice of full English and lighter, vegetarian and children's options. The guest lounge has a well-stocked bar, and there are seats in the little paved garden. Apart from the 10-mile stretch of sandy beach and traditional seaside activities, Bridlington has plenty of other things to interest the visitor, including a historic priory, two museums and a major leisure centre.

Belmont Guest House is open all year round. Children are always welcome, but no pets please.



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Village is naturally popular with children who are fascinated by features such as the steam train crossing the tiny river and passing the harbour with its fishing boats and cruisers. The crews of Bridlington's **Lifeboats** have earned an impressive 50 gallantry awards down the years. The Station, which has an inshore and an all-weather lifeboat, can be visited between 10am and 4pm daily.

Around Bridlington

FLAMBOROUGH

4 miles NE of Bridlington on the B1255

 Flamborough Head  Danes Dyke

At **Flamborough Head**, sea and land are locked in an unremitting battle. At the North Landing, huge foam-spumed waves roll in between gigantic cliffs, slowly but remorselessly washing away the shoreline. Paradoxically, the outcome of this elemental conflict is to produce one of the most picturesque locations on the Yorkshire coast, much visited and much photographed.

Flamborough has a long and lively maritime history, not least for being the site of one of

the most stubborn naval battles in British history, which occurred off Flamborough Head between the American squadron led by John Paul Jones and two British ships of war. Taking place during the War of Independence in 1777, watchers on the coast were transfixed by this intense battle that eventually led to the defeat of the British, when British Captain Pearson surrendered his sword to John Paul Jones.

Victorian travel writers also came to appreciate and honour Flamborough, not just for its dramatic setting, but also for its people. They were so clannish and held such strange superstitions: no boat would ever set sail on a Sunday; wool could not be wound in lamplight; anyone who mentioned a hare or a pig while baiting the fishing lines was inviting doom; no fisherman would leave harbour unless he was wearing a navy-blue jersey, knitted by his wife in a cable diamond mesh peculiar to the village and still worn today. Every year the villagers would slash their way through Flamborough in a sword-dancing frenzy introduced here in the 8th century by the Vikings. Eventually, local fishermen grew weary of this primitive role, so although the sword dance still takes place it is now performed by

boys from the primary school, wearing white trousers, red caps and the traditional navy-blue jerseys.

Flamborough's parish church contains two particularly interesting monuments. One is the tomb of Sir Marmaduke Constable, which shows him with his chest cut open to reveal his heart being devoured by a toad. The knight's death in 1518 had been caused, the story goes, by his swallowing the toad that had been drowning in his lunchtime pint of ale. The creature then devoured his heart.



St Oswald's Church, Flamborough

THE NORTH STAR HOTEL

North Marine Road, Flamborough,
East Yorkshire YO15 1BL

Tel: 01262 850379

e-mail: info@thenorthstarhotel.co.uk

website: www.thenorthstarhotel.co.uk

A warm welcome and personal attention are guaranteed at the **North Star Hotel**, a small family-run hotel located at Flamborough. That family is the Johnstons, who along with their loyal staff ensure that a stay here is an occasion to remember. The Johnstons have been here since 1991, maintaining a tradition of hospitality that dates back to 1840. The smartly appointed bedrooms provide a commendably high standard of accommodation, including singles, doubles, twins and a four-poster room for an additional touch of romance and luxury. All rooms include a private bathroom, remote-control TV and tea/coffee-making facilities, and most enjoy panoramic sea views.

The Olde Worlde Bar is the perfect spot to relax and unwind and to meet the other guests; it's also a favourite place for locals to get together. The bar is open daily for a quiet drink, a light snack or even something more substantial from the traditional menu – perhaps deep-fried local haddock or a tasty home-made steak pie. In the slightly more formal surroundings of the restaurant, hotel guests and non-residents can take their pick from à la carte and table d'hôte menus. Michael Johnston, the classically trained head chef, his wife Karen and their excellent staff prepare and serve a wide selection of dishes, some of them old favourites, others more innovative, with French and European influences. With the sea just 100 yards away, seafood and fish dishes are naturally something of a speciality, but prime Yorkshire beef and game from the Wolds (pheasant, venison, wild boar) also feature among the seasonal choice. Vegetarians are well catered for, and children can choose from their own special menu. The four-course Sunday lunch is always a popular event.

The North Star is convenient for an overnight stay, a business trip or a traditional seaside holiday, and an ideal base for discovering the Yorkshire Wolds, for walking the nature trail at Danes Dyke or exploring the beautiful, dramatic cliffs and caves and coves of the Heritage Coast. Flamborough itself has been much visited, written about and photographed since Victorian times, and its scenic beauty and maritime history continue to attract tourists from all over the world. The North Star is only ten minutes away from the internationally important RSPB sanctuary at Bempton Cliffs, breeding ground for puffins, gannets and other seabirds. Flamborough lies about 4 miles north of Bridlington, on the B1255 or B1229 off the main A165 Hull-Scarborough road.



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The other notable monument is a statue of St Oswald, patron saint of fishermen. This fishing connection is renewed every year, on the second Sunday in October, by a service dedicated to the Harvest of the Sea, when the area's seafarers gather together in a church decorated with crab pots and fishing nets.

Flamborough Head's first, and England's oldest surviving lighthouse, is the octagonal chalk tower on the landward side of the present lighthouse. Built in 1674, its beacon was a basket of burning coal. The lighthouse that is still in use was built in 1806. Originally signalling four white flashes, developments over the years have included a fog horn in 1859 and, in more recent years, a signal of radio bleeps. Until it was automated in 1995, it was the last manned lighthouse on the east coast.

Just to the north of Flamborough is **Danes Dyke**, a huge rampart four miles long designed to cut off the headland from hostile invaders. The Danes had nothing to do with it, the dyke was in place long before they arrived. Sometime during the Bronze or Stone Age, early Britons constructed this extraordinary defensive ditch. A mile and a quarter of its

southern length is open to the public as a Nature Trail.

BEMPTON

3 miles N of Bridlington on the B1229

 Bempton Cliffs and RSPB Bird Sanctuary

Bempton Cliffs, 400 feet high, mark the northernmost tip of the great belt of chalk that runs diagonally across England from the Isle of Wight to Flamborough Head. The RSPB manages five kilometres of sea cliffs for the benefit of the wildlife, which include seals and porpoises as well as birds. The sheer cliffs at Bempton provide an ideal breeding and nesting place for huge colonies of fulmars, guillemots, puffins, razorbills, kittiwakes, herring gulls, shags and Britain's largest seabird, the gannet, with a wingspan that can reach six feet. In Victorian times, a popular holiday sport was to shoot the birds from boats. Above them, crowds gathered to watch gangs of 'climbers' make a hair-raising descent by rope down the cliffs to gather the birds' eggs. Most were sold for food, but many went to egg collectors. The climbers also massacred kittiwakes in their thousands: kittiwake feathers were highly prized as

accessories for hats and for stuffing mattresses. The first Bird Protection Act of 1869 was specifically designed to protect the kittiwakes at Bempton. A ban on collecting eggs here didn't come into force until 1954. The **RSPB Bird Sanctuary** (see panel on page 258) is a refuge during the April to August breeding season for more than 200,000 seabirds, making this the largest colony in England. The grassland and



Bempton Cliffs

RSPB's Bempton Cliffs Nature Reserve

RSPB North of England Office, 4 Benton Terrace, Sandford Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1QU
Tel: 01912 813366

The chalk cliffs at Bempton form part of England's largest seabird colony between Flamborough Head and Bempton. Over 200,000 seabirds breed on the reserve alone. As well as managing reserves such as this the RSPB also works for the better protection of the marine environment.

For much of the year, the cliffs at Bempton are relatively quiet, but during the breeding season, between April and August, they are crammed with birds. The spectacle, noise, activity and smell all contribute to an overwhelming and memorable experience. As many seabird colonies are on remote islands Bempton offers a rare opportunity to watch breeding seabirds at close quarters.

Both puffins and gannets breed at Bempton. About 2,000 pairs of puffins return to the cliffs to breed and each pair lays a single egg in a crevice in the rock face. Between May and the end of July they regularly visit their young with small fish but by August, the young puffins have left the cliffs to spend the winter on the North Sea. Bempton has the largest mainland gannet colony (gannetry) in Britain. Over 2,500 pairs nest on the cliffs and can be seen here from January to November, but are most active between April and August when they are breeding. They will travel up to 60 miles to find food. When fishing, gannets can dive from heights of up to 130 feet, entering the water at up to 60 mph.

Six other species of seabirds nest at Bempton Cliffs. Kittiwakes are the most numerous, with 45,000 pairs packed onto the cliffs. Guillemots and razorbills also nest on the narrow cliff ledges. Look out for the distinctive gliding flight of fulmars around the cliffs, and herring gulls and a few shags also nest on the cliffs.



scrub along the clifftops are home to breeding and wintering farmland birds, including buntings, finches, sparrows and short-eared owls. The RSPB provides safe viewpoints allowing close-up watching, and the specially created viewpoints are wheelchair-accessible with care. The site also has a visitor centre, shop and refreshments. The sanctuary, which is open for visits all year round, is located on the cliff road from Bempton, off the B1229 Flamborough to Filey road.

BARMSTON

5 miles S of Bridlington off the A165

The road leading from Barmston village to the sands is just over half a mile long; in Viking times it stretched twice as far. The whole of this coast is being eroded at an average rate of three inches every year, and as much as three feet a year in the most vulnerable locations. Fortunately, that still leaves plenty of time to visit Barmston's village pub before it tumbles into the sea!

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CARNABY

2 miles SW of Bridlington on the A614

John Bull – World of Rock

Leaving Bridlington on the A166 will soon bring you to **John Bull – World of Rock**, which has become a premier tourist attraction in this part of East Yorkshire and provides a really great family day out. Whether you are young or old, you will be fascinated to discover the history and delights of making rock. The older generation will particularly revel in the smell of the old-fashioned way of making toffee and the interesting bygone displays. Animation and taped conversation accompany you as you explore the exhibition, which is described as a total sensory experience. You can even try your hand at making a personalised stick of rock. The neighbouring Candy kingdom has an adventure play centre.

BURTON AGNES

5 miles SW of Bridlington on the A166

Manor House Burton Agnes Hall

The overwhelming attraction in this unspoilt village is the sublime Elizabethan mansion, Burton Agnes Hall, but visitors should not

ignore **Burton Agnes Manor House** (English Heritage), a rare example of a Norman house: a building of great historical importance but burdened with a grimly functional architecture, almost 800 years old, that chills one's soul. As Lloyd Grossman might say, "How could anyone live in a house like this?"

Burton Agnes Hall is much more appealing. An outstanding Elizabethan house, built between 1598 and 1610 and little altered, Burton Agnes is particularly famous for its splendid Jacobean gatehouse, wondrously decorated ceilings and overmantels carved in oak, plaster and alabaster. It also has a valuable collection of paintings and furniture from between the 17th and 19th centuries – including a portrait of Oliver Cromwell "warts and all" – and a large collection of Impressionist paintings. The gardens are extensive with more than 2,000 plants, a maze and giant board games in the Coloured Gardens. Other visitor facilities include an ice cream parlour, a dried-flower and herb shop, a children's animal corner, and an artists' studio. A very popular addition is the plant sales where numerous uncommon varieties can be obtained. The Impressionist Café, open throughout the Hall's season, seats 64 inside

and, in good weather, 56 outside. Non-smoking, but licensed and offering only the very best in home cooking, the café serves some particularly delicious scones.

FOSTON ON THE WOLDS

7 miles SW of Bridlington off the B1249 or A165

Cruckley Animal Farm

If you can't tell a Gloucester Old Spot from a Saddleback, or a Belted Galloway from a Belgian Blue, then



Burton Agnes Hall

C.N. & A.F. TINDALL FAMILY BUTCHERS

69 Middle Street South, Driffield, East Yorkshire, YO25 6QF

Tel: 01377 257307

e-mail: chris@tindalldriffield.karoo.co.uk

website: www.tindallsbutchers.co.uk

Located in the heart of Driffield, capital of the picturesque Yorkshire Wolds, is **C.N. & A.F. Tindall Family Butchers**. Owned by husband and wife Chris and Fran Tindall, the butchers shop has been firmly established in the market town for nearly three decades.

Chris, originally from Hull, began his career as an apprentice chef before moving into hotel management, working at the notable and nationally established catering and hotel chain, The Grand Metropolitan Hotel Group. Fran's career began in retail, working at John Lewis Partnership in Watford and later at Hammonds in Hull. Her experience working 'front of shop' has helped establish a friendly rapport between the staff and visitors to the shop.

Spurred by a desire to make their own mark in the food industry, Chris and Fran bought premises in the Avenues area of Hull. After 10 years, the business outgrew its surroundings and Chris and Fran, now with two children, sought larger premises in Driffield.

Chris and Fran have stuck firmly to their principles of providing the highest standard of locally-sourced meat, reliability and customer service. It is these principles that have helped them to gain a loyal customer base and seen them through some of the tougher times faced by the industry as a whole. In fact, speak to any of the seven-strong team at the shop and they will not only advise you on the best cut of meat for your particular dish, they will also tell you the breed of cattle, pig or lamb and the name of the farmer who reared it. They will also tell you that all carcasses hang for at least a week, beef forequarters for two weeks and beef hindquarters for three weeks, this is to ensure optimum texture, tenderness and flavour.

Chris buys all his free range pigs, lambs and cattle direct from farms situated in the Yorkshire Wolds and the verdant pastures of the Vale of York, ensuring that he sees at first-hand the quality of the animals and the conditions in which they have been reared. It is his attention to detail and eye for quality that has made Chris highly thought of by his peers, having been asked on several occasions to judge at Fat Stock Shows and the prestigious Great Yorkshire Show.

Not afraid to try new ventures and offer their customers a change beyond the usual cuts and joints, Chris and Fran developed the cooked pastries side of the business offering their own hand-made sausage rolls; steak; mince and onion, chicken and ham and pork pies. The latter being the most famous, with orders coming from across the country and it even getting a mention on BBC Radio 1!

Shop hours are from 8:00am to 16:30pm Monday to Saturday, with the exception of Wednesday where opening hours are 8:00am – 13:00pm.



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CRUCKLEY ANIMAL FARM

Foston on the Wolds, nr Driffield,

East Yorkshire YO25 8BS

Tel: 01262 488837

website: www.cruckley.co.uk

Cruckley Animal Farm nestles in the heart of rural East Yorkshire, in a beautiful setting a world away from the hustle and bustle of town life. Sue and John Johnston's farm, established 20 years ago, supports many different varieties of cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, donkeys and poultry. Some breeds, such as the Greyfaced Dartmoor and the Boreray (St Kilda) sheep, are endangered, and the farm also safeguards six rare breeds of British pigs. The farm has been approved by the Rare Breeds Survival trust since 1994 and is the only farm in East Yorkshire to achieve this accolade – showing that conservation is high on the list of priorities.

Enormously popular with families and children, the farm is home to more than 40 varieties of farm animal. It stages daily milking demonstrations and seasonal events such as harvesting and sheep-clipping. The children's paddock, with its hand-reared small animals, is a sure-fire winner with the children. Hot and cold drinks, ices, sweets, home-made cakes and themed gifts are sold in the tea room and shop, and the farm has indoor and outdoor picnic areas and a children's play area. A 1½-mile walkway meanders through the farm, revealing all kinds of wildlife, insects and wild flowers. Cruckley Farm is open from Easter to the end of September.



take a trip to **Cruckley Animal Farm** (see panel above), where all will become clear. Visitors can watch the daily milking, bootle-feed the baby lambs and goats, go gooey-eyed at the fluffy chicks and take a little exercise on the waymarked walk. Cruckley Farm is open daily from the end of April until early October and is clearly signposted.

Driffield

Located on the edge of the Wolds, Driffield is a busy little market town at the heart of an important corn-growing area. A cattle market is held here every Thursday; a general market on both Thursday and Saturday; and the annual agricultural show has been going strong since 1854. All Saints Parish Church, dating back to

the 12th century, has one of the highest towers in the county and some lovely stained glass windows portraying local nobility.

Driffield was once the capital of the Saxon Kingdom of Deor, a vast domain extending over the whole of Northumbria and Yorkshire. It was a King of Deor who, for administrative convenience, divided the southern part of his realm into three parts, 'thriddings', a word that gradually evolved into the famous 'Ridings' of Yorkshire.

Driffield has expanded westwards to meet up with its smaller neighbour, Little Driffield. A tablet in the church here claims that, in the Saxon monastery that stood on this site, Aldred, King of Northumbria, was buried in AD705 after being wounded in a battle against the Danes.

J W WATSON & SON

13 Market Place, Drifffield, East Yorkshire YO25 6AP

Tel: 01377 253077

e-mail: enquiries@jwwatson.co.uk

website: www.jwwatson.co.uk

J W Watson & Son is Drifffield's oldest jeweller, founded by the eponymous John Watson in 1881 and known far and wide for quality, reliability, value for money and good old-fashioned customer service. It is owned and run by Alastair and Claudia Shields, who provide a full service of sales and repair on a wide range of jewellery and watches. They stock an impressive choice of rings in gold, sterling silver and platinum, with an equally wide choice of stones. They keep all the leading brands of watches, along with straps and batteries, and repairs to both jewellery and watches are carried out in the firm's workshops. J W Watson & Son also stocks a selection of clocks and gifts for all occasions, including hip flasks, tankards, jewellery boxes and photo frames.



CHARTER'S BUTCHERS

30 Main Street, Brandesburton, nr Drifffield,

East Yorkshire YO25 8RL

Tel: 01964 542232 Fax: 01964 502799

On the main street of Brandesburton, a short drive from Beverley, **Charter's Butchers** has been serving the local community since 1896. Kevan and Sarah Vickers are maintaining the shop's lofty and well-earned reputation for outstanding quality, service and product knowledge. Prime pork, beef, lamb and poultry are mainly locally sourced, and Charter's is also well-known for its cooked meats, pies and sausages – these come in some 15 tempting varieties, including pork & apple, sweet chilli, stilton & chive and ham & tomato. The shop also sells bread and cakes, cheese, eggs, chutneys and preserves.



Around Drifffield

KIRKBURN

3 miles SW of Drifffield on the A614

St Mary's Church

The architectural guru Nikolaus Pevsner considered **St Mary's Church** in Kirkburn to be one of the two best Norman parish churches in the East Riding. Dating from 1119, the church has an unusual tower staircase, a richly carved and decorated Victorian screen, and a spectacular early Norman font covered with carved symbolic figures.

SLEDMERE

7 miles NW of Drifffield on the B1252/B1253

Sledmere House Eleanor Cross

Wagoners Memorial

Sledmere House is a noble Georgian mansion built by the Sykes family in the 1750s when this area was still a wilderness infested with packs of marauding wolves. Inside, there is fine furniture by Chippendale and Sheraton, and decorated plasterwork by Joseph Rose. The copy of a naked, and well-endowed, Apollo Belvedere in the landing alcove must have caused many a maidenly blush in Victorian times, and the Turkish

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Room – inspired by the Sultan's salon in Istanbul's Valideh Mosque – is a dazzling example of oriental opulence. Outside, the gardens and the 220 acres of parkland were landscaped by Capability Brown.

The Sykes family set a shining example to other landowners in the Wolds by agricultural improvements that transformed a “blank and barren tract of land” into one of the most productive and best cultivated districts in the county. They founded the famous Sledmere Stud, and the second Sir Tatton Sykes spent nearly two million pounds on building and restoring churches in the area. Sledmere House itself was ravaged by fire in 1911. Sir Tatton was enjoying his favourite lunchtime dessert of rice pudding when a servant rushed in with news of the fire and urged him to leave the house. “First, I must finish my pudding, finish my pudding,” he declared, and did so. An armchair was set up for him on the lawn and Sir Tatton, then 85 years old, “followed the progress of the conflagration” as the household staff laboured to rescue the house's many treasures. After the fire, Sledmere was quickly restored and the Sykes family is still in residence. The house is open to the public and music lovers should make sure they visit between 2pm and 4pm when the enormous pipe organ is being played.

Across the road from Sledmere House are two remarkable, elaborately detailed monuments. The **Eleanor Cross** – modelled on those set up by Edward I in memory of his Queen – was erected by Sir Tatton Sykes in 1900; the **Wagoners Memorial**, designed by



Sledmere House

Sir Mark Sykes, commemorates the 1,000-strong company of men he raised from the Wolds during World War One. Their knowledge of horses was invaluable in their role as members of the Army Service Corps. The finely-carved monument is like a storyboard, its panels depicting the Wagoners' varied duties during the war. In the main house itself, a recently redesigned exhibit tells the story of the Wagoners Special Reserve through old photographs, memorabilia and some of the medals they were awarded.

WEST LUTTON

10 miles NW of Drifffield off the A64 or B1253

West Lutton Church is yet another of the many repaired or restored by Sir Tatton Sykes. It stands overlooking the village green and pond, its lych gate reached by a tiny bridge.

WHARRAM PERCY

11 miles W of Drifffield off the B1248

Deserted Medieval Village

A minor road off the B1248 leads to one of the most haunting sights in the county – the **Deserted Medieval Village** of Wharram

Percy (English Heritage; free). There had been a settlement here for some 5,000 years, but by the late 1400s the village stood abandoned. For a while the church continued to serve the surrounding hamlets but, in time, that too became a ruin. The manor house of the Percy family who gave the village its name, peasant houses dating back to the 13th century, a corn mill, a cemetery complete with exposed skeletons – these sad memorials of a once thriving community stand windswept and desolate. Until fairly recently it was assumed that the villagers had been driven from their homes by the plague, but scholars are now certain that the cause was simple economics: the lords of the manor, the Percys, turned their lands from labour-intensive crop cultivation to sheep farming, which needed only a handful of shepherds. Unable to find work, the villagers drifted away.

HUGGATE

10 miles W of Great Driffield off the B1246 or B1248

 Kipling Cotes Derby

Huggate is tucked away deep in the heart of the Wolds with two long-distance walks, the Minster Way and the Wolds Way, skirting it to the north and south. The village clusters around a large green with a well, which is claimed to be the deepest in England.

The pretty village of Warter, about four miles south of Huggate, is where the oldest horse race in the world has its winning post. The post is inscribed with the date 1519, the year in which the **Kipling Cotes Derby** was first run. This demanding four-mile steeplechase, which passes through several parishes, is still held annually on the third Thursday in March.

POCKLINGTON

14 miles SW of Great Driffield off the A1079

 Kilnwick Percy Hall  Penny Arcadia

 Burnby Hall & Gardens  Londesborough Park

Set amidst rich agricultural land with the Wolds rising to the east, Pocklington is a lively market town with an unusual layout of twisting alleys running off the marketplace. Its splendid church, mostly 15th century but with fragments of an earlier Norman building, certainly justifies its title as the Cathedral of the Wolds (although strictly speaking, Pocklington is just outside the Wolds). William Wilberforce went to the old grammar school here and, a more dubious claim to fame, the last burning of a witch in England took place in Pocklington in 1630.

Founded in Anglo-Saxon times by 'Pocela's people', by the time the Domesday Book was compiled Pocklington was recorded as one of the only two boroughs in the East Riding.



Burnby Hall and Gardens, Pocklington

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A market followed in the 13th century, but it was the building in 1815 of a canal linking the town to the River Ouse, and the later arrival of the railway, that set the seal on the town's prosperity.

A popular and unusual attraction in Pocklington is the **Penny Arcadia** housed in the Ritz Cinema in the marketplace. "Not so much a museum as a fun palace", it contains a wonderful collection of penny-in-the-slot amusement machines ranging from What the Butler Saw to fortune-telling and pinball machines. Call 01759 303420 for opening times.

The people of Pocklington have good reason to be grateful to Major PM Stewart who, on his death in 1962, bequeathed **Burnby Hall and Gardens** to the town. The eight acres of gardens are world-famous for the rare collection of water lilies planted in the two large lakes. There are some 50 varieties and in the main flowering season from July to early September they present a dazzling spectacle. The Major and his wife had travelled extensively before settling down at Burnby and there's a small museum in the Hall displaying his collection of sporting trophies.

A mile outside the town is **Kilnwick Percy Hall**, a magnificent Georgian mansion built in 1784 for the Lord of the Manor of Pocklington. It now houses the Madhyamaka Centre, the largest Buddhist settlement in the western world. Visitors can stay in converted stables at the Hall, either to take part in one of the residential courses or to use as a base for exploring the area. There's a modest charge for full board; smoking and drinking alcohol are not allowed.

A few miles to the south of Pocklington is **Londesborough Park**, a 400-acre estate that was once owned by the legendary railway entrepreneur, George Hudson. He had the

York to Market Weighton railway diverted here so that he could build himself a comfortable private station. The railway has now disappeared but part of its route is included in the popular long-distance footpath, the Wolds Way.

GOODMANHAM

14 miles SW of Driffield off the A1079

Goodmanham is always mentioned in accounts of early Christianity in northern England. During Saxon times, according to the Venerable Bede, there was a pagan temple at Goodmanham. In AD627 its priest, Coifu, was converted to the Christian faith and with his own hands destroyed the heathen shrine. Coifu's conversion so impressed Edwin, King of Northumbria, that he also was baptised and made Christianity the official religion of his kingdom. Other versions of the story attribute King Edwin's conversion to a different cause. They say he was hopelessly enamoured of the beautiful Princess Aethelburh, daughter of the King of Kent. Aethelburh, however, was a Christian and she refused to marry Edwin until he had adopted her faith.

MARKET WEIGHTON

16 miles SW of Driffield on the A614/A1069

Market Weighton is a busy little town where mellow 18th-century houses cluster around an early Norman church. Buried somewhere in the churchyard is William Bradley, who was born at Market Weighton in 1787 and grew up to become the tallest man in England. He stood 7 feet 8 inches high and weighed 27 stone. William made a fortune by travelling the country and placing himself on display. He was even received at Court by George III who, taking a fancy to the giant, gave him a huge gold watch to wear across his chest.

SOUTH DALTON

13 miles SW of Driffield off the B1248

St Mary's Church

The most prominent church in East Yorkshire, **St Mary's Church** has a soaring spire more than 200 feet high, an unmistakable landmark for miles around. Built in 1861 by Lord Beaumont Hotham, the church was designed by the famous Victorian architect J.L. Pearson, and the elaborate internal and external decorations are well worth looking at.

Beverley

Minster St Mary's Church Market Cross

North Bar Guildhall Art Gallery

Hudson Way

"For those who do not know this town, there is a great surprise in store ... Beverley is made for walking and living in". Such was the considered opinion of the much-loved Poet Laureate, John Betjeman. In medieval times, Beverley was one of England's most prosperous towns and it remains one of the most gracious. Its greatest glory is the **Minster** whose twin towers, built in glowing



Beverley Minster

magnesian limestone, soar above this, the oldest town in East Yorkshire. More than two centuries in the making, from around 1220 to 1450, the Minster provides a textbook demonstration of the evolving architectural styles of those years. Among its many treasures are superb, fine wood carvings from the Ripon school, and a 1,000-year-old fridstol, or sanctuary seat. Carved from a single block of stone, the fridstol is a relic from the earlier Saxon church on this site. Under Saxon law, the fridstol provided refuge for any offender who managed to reach it. The canons would then try to resolve the dispute between the fugitive and his pursuer. If after 30 days no solution had been found, the seeker of sanctuary was given safe escort to the county boundary or the nearest port. The custom survived right up until Henry VIII's closure of the monasteries.

Unlike the plain-cut fridstol, the canopy of the 14th-century Percy Shrine is prodigal in its ornamentation – "the finest piece of work of the finest craftsmen of the finest period in British building". The behaviour of some visitors to this glorious Shrine was not, it seems, always as reverent as it might have been. When Celia Fiennes toured the Minster in 1697 she recorded that the tomb of "Great Percy, Earle of Northumberland was a little fallen in and a hole so bigg as many put their hands in and touch'd the body which was much of it entire". Great Percy's remains are now decently concealed once again.

As well as the incomparable stone carvings on the shrine, the Minster also has a wealth of wonderful carvings in wood. Seek out those representing Stomach Ache,

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TIME & MOTION

1 Beckside, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 0PB
Tel: 01482 881574

'Antique Clocks & Barometers Bought, Sold & Restored'

Time & Motion is a well-established and highly respected business in the historic and gracious town of Beverley, specialising in the sale and restoration of antique clocks and barometers.

Owned and run by Peter Lancaster, a fellow of the British Horological Institute, it offers one of the largest selections in the UK, with over 150 restored pieces in stock at any one time. The display includes long-case clocks of the 18th and 19th centuries, English bracket clocks, German and French mantle clocks, English, German and American wall clocks, carriage clocks and aneroid and mercury barometers. Everything in the shop has been fully restored in Peter's workshops, which are fully equipped to provide the fullest range of services, from wheel cutting to case and dial restoration.

A collection and delivery service is available, estimates and advice are freely given and valuations are undertaken. Time & Motion is open from 10 to 5 (closed Thursday and Sunday), otherwise by appointment.



Toothache, Sciatica and Lumbago – four afflictions probably almost as fearsome to medieval people as the Four Riders of the Apocalypse.

Close by is the **North Bar**, the only one of the town's five medieval gatehouses to have survived. Unlike many towns in the Middle Ages, Beverley did not have an encircling wall. Instead, the town fathers had a deep ditch excavated around it so that all goods had to pass through one of the gates and pay a toll. North Bar was built in 1409 and, with headroom of little more than 10 feet, is something of a traffic hazard, albeit a very attractive one. Next door is Bar House, in which Charles I and his sons stayed in the 1630s. Another visitor to the town, famous for very different reasons, was the highwayman

Dick Turpin who, in 1739, was brought before a magistrates' hearing conducted at one of the town's inns. That inn has long since gone and its site is now occupied by the Beverley Arms.

St Mary's Church, just across the road from the Beverley Arms, tends to be overshadowed by the glories of Beverley Minster. But this is another superb medieval building, richly endowed with fine carvings, many brightly coloured, and striking sculptures. A series of ceiling panels depicts all the Kings of England from Sigebert (AD623-637) to Henry VI. Originally, four legendary kings were also included, but one of them was replaced in recent times by a portrait of George VI. Lewis Carroll visited St Mary's when he stayed with friends in the town and was very taken with a stone carving of a rabbit

– the inspiration, it is believed, for the March Hare in *Alice in Wonderland*. Certainly the carving bears an uncanny resemblance to Tenniel's famous drawing of the Mad Hatter.

The wide market square in the heart of the town is graced by an elegant **Market Cross**, a circular pillared building rather like a small Greek temple. It bears the arms of Queen Anne in whose reign it was built at the expense of the town's two Members of Parliament. At that time, of course, parliamentary elections were flagrantly corrupt, but at Beverley the tradition continued longer than in most places – in 1868 the author Anthony Trollope stood as a candidate here but was defeated in what was acknowledged as a breathtakingly fraudulent election.

The 18th century **Guildhall** nearby, Grade I listed, is the town's historic seat of governance and is still used as a courtroom. The impressive magistrates room has an ornate plasterwork ceiling on which there is an imposing Royal Coat of Arms and the familiar figure of Justice holding a pair of scales. Unusually, she is not wearing a blindfold. When an 18th-century town clerk was asked the reason for this departure from tradition, he replied, "In Beverley, Justice is not blind." Other notable features include a Victorian Mayor's parlour and sandstone portico modelled on the Temple of Apollo at Delos.

Beverley Art Gallery contains an impressive collection of local works including those by Frederick Elwell RA, who was born (1820) and died (1958) in Beverley.

From Beverley, serious walkers might care to try some or all of the 15-mile **Hudson Way**, a level route that follows the track of the old railway from Beverley to Market Weighton. The Hudson Way wanders through the Wolds, sometimes deep in a

cutting, sometimes high on an embankment, past an old windmill near Etton and through eerily abandoned stations.

Around Beverley

SKIDBY

6 miles S of Beverley off the A164

 Mill  Museum of Rural Life

In the 1800s more than 200 windmills were scattered across the Wolds. Today, **Skidby Mill** is the only one still grinding grain and producing its own wholemeal flour. Built in 1821 by Norman & Smithson of Hull, it has three pairs of millstones powered by four 12-metre sails, each weighing more than 1.25 tonnes. Weather permitting, the mill operates every weekend, Bank Holidays and, during the school summer holidays, Wednesday to Sunday.

At the same location is the **Museum of East Riding Rural Life** where the farming year is chronicled using historic implements and fascinating photographs. The displays feature the Thompson family, who owned Skidby Mill for more than a century, and other local characters.

Holderness

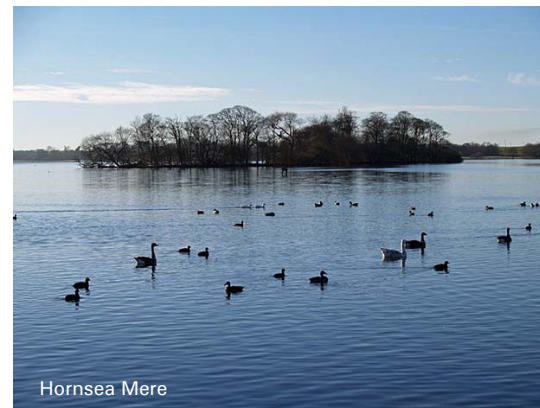
*Lordings, there is in Yorkshire, as I guess
A marshy country called Holdernesse.*

With these words Chaucer begins the Summoner's story in *The Canterbury Tales*. It's not surprising that this area was then largely marshland since most of the land lies at less than 10 metres above sea level. The name Holderness comes from Viking times: a 'hold' was a man of high rank in the Danelaw, 'ness' has stayed in the language with its meaning of

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Hornsea Mere

promontory. The precise boundaries of the Land of Holderness are clear enough to the east where it runs to the coast, and to the south where Holderness ends with Yorkshire itself at Spurn Point. They are less well-defined to the north and west where they run somewhere close to the great crescent of the Wolds. For the purposes of this book, we have taken as the northern limit of Holderness the village of Skipsea, where, as you'll discover in the next entry, some early Norman Lords of Holderness showed a remarkable lack of loyalty to their King.

Hornsea

 Museum  Hornsea Mere  Butterfly World

This small coastal town can boast not only one of the most popular visitor attractions in Humberside, Freeport Hornsea, but also Yorkshire's largest freshwater lake, Hornsea Mere. **Hornsea Mere**, two miles long and one mile wide, provides a refuge for over 170 species of birds and a peaceful setting for many varieties of rare flowers. Human visitors are well provided for, too, with facilities for fishing, boating and sailing. Hornsea is also the

home of excellent sands, a church built with cobbles gathered from the shore, well-tended public gardens and a breezy, mile-long promenade all adding to the town's popularity.

The **Hornsea Museum**, established in 1978, is a folk museum that has won numerous national awards over the years, as well as being featured several times on television. It occupies a Grade II listed building, a former farmhouse where successive

generations of the Burn family lived for 300 years up until 1952. Their way of life, the personalities and characters who influenced the development of the town or found fame in other ways, are explored in meticulously restored rooms brimming with furniture, decorations, utensils and tools of the Victorian period. The kitchen, parlour and bedroom have fascinating displays of authentic contemporary artefacts, and the museum complex also includes a laundry, workshop, blacksmith's shop and a barn stocked with vintage agricultural implements.

In Swallow Cottage next door, children can undergo the Victorian school experience under the tutelage of 'Miss Grim' – writing on slates, having good deportment instilled and, above all, observing the maxim, Silence is Golden. The cottage also houses a comprehensive and varied display of early Hornsea pottery, various temporary exhibitions and, in summer, a refreshment room for visitors. Remarkably, this outstanding museum is staffed entirely by volunteers.

For a satisfying shop-till-you-drop experience, Hornsea Freeport – the Independent State of Low Prices – is hard to

beat. There are discounts of up to 50% or more on everything from designerwear, childrenswear and sportswear to chinaware, kitchenware and glassware. There are themed leisure attractions and bright, fun-filled play areas to keep the children amused.

Butterfly World is home to more than 200 species of colourful butterflies.

Around Hornsea

ATWICK

2 miles NW of Hornsea on the B1242

Like Hornsea, Atwick once had its own mere. Some years ago, excavations in its dried-up bed revealed fossilised remains of a huge Irish elk and the tusk of an ancient elephant, clear proof of the tropical climate East Yorkshire enjoyed in those far-off days. Atwick is a picturesque village on the coast, just two miles north of Hornsea. It has been a regular winner of local – and, in 1997, county – awards in the Britain in Bloom competition.

SKIPSEA

5 miles NW of Hornsea on the B1242

Skipsea Mere

When William the Conqueror granted Drogo de Bevrere the Lordship of Holderness, Drogo decided to raise his castle on an island in the shallow lake known as **Skipsea Mere**. Built mostly of timber, the castle had not long been completed when Drogo made the foolish mistake of murdering his wife. In the normal course of events, a Norman lord could murder whomever he wished, but Drogo's action was foolish because his wife was a kinswoman of the Conqueror himself. Drogo was banished and his lands

granted to a succession of other royal relatives, most of whom also came to a sticky end after becoming involved in rebellions and treasonable acts. The castle was finally abandoned in the mid 13th century and all that remains now is the great motte, or mound, on which it was built and the earth ramparts surrounding it.

WEST NEWTON

5 miles S of Hornsea off the B1238

Burton Constable Hall

Just outside the village of West Newton is **Burton Constable Hall** (see panel opposite), named after Sir John Constable, who in 1570 built a stately mansion here that incorporated parts of an even older house, dating back to the reign of King Stephen in the 1100s. The Hall was again remodelled, on Jacobean lines, in the 18th century and contains some fine work by Chippendale, Adam and James Wyatt. In the famous Long Gallery, with its 15th-century Flemish stained glass, hangs a remarkable collection of paintings, among them Holbein's portraits of Sir Thomas Cranmer and Sir Thomas More, and Zuccheri's Mary, Queen of Scots. Dragons abound in the dazzling Chinese Room, an exercise in oriental exotica that long pre-dates the Prince Regent's similar extravaganza at the



Burton Constable Hall, West Newton

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Brighton Pavilion. Thomas Chippendale himself designed the fantastical Dragon Chair, fit for a Ming Emperor. Outside, there are extensive parklands designed by Capability Brown, and apparently inspired by the gardens at Versailles. Perhaps it was this connection that motivated the Constable family to suggest loaning the Hall to Louis XVIII of France during his years of exile after the Revolution. (Louis politely declined the offer, preferring to settle rather closer to London, at Hartwell in Buckinghamshire.) Also in the grounds of the Hall are collections of agricultural machinery, horse-drawn carriages and 18th-century scientific apparatus.

The descendants of the Constable family still bear the title Lords of Holderness and along with it the rights to any flotsam and jetsam washed ashore on the Holderness peninsula. Many years ago, when the late

Brigadier Chichester Constable was congratulated on enjoying such a privilege, he retorted, "I also have to pay for burying, or otherwise disposing of, any whale grounded on the Holderness shore – and it costs me about £20 a time!" The huge bones of one such whale are still on show in the grounds of the Hall.

Withernsea

Lighthouse Spurn Point

The next place of interest down the Holderness coast is Withernsea. Long, golden sandy beaches stretch for miles both north and south, albeit a mile further inland than they were in the days of William the Conqueror. The old **Lighthouse** is a striking feature of the town and those energetic enough to climb the 127-foot tower are

Burton Constable Hall

*Burton Constable, Hull,
East Yorkshire HU11 4LN
Tel: 01964 562400
website: www.burtonconstable.com*

Burton Constable is a large Elizabethan mansion set in a 300-acre park with nearly 30 rooms open to the public. The interiors of faded splendour are filled with fine furniture, paintings and sculpture, a library of 5,000 books and a remarkable 18th century 'cabinet of curiosities', which contains fossils, natural history specimens and the most important collections of scientific instruments to be found in any country house. Occupied by the Constable family for over 400 years, the house still maintains the atmosphere of a home.

The superb 18th and 19th century interiors include a Gallery, Dining and Drawing Rooms, Bedrooms, Chapel and Chinese Room. A total of 30 rooms are open to view and these include some fascinating 'below stairs' areas such as an intriguing Lamp Room. Outside the house there are gardens with statues, a delightful orangery ornamented with coade stone, a stable block and wild fowl lakes set in 300 acres of parkland landscaped by 'Capability' Brown in the 1770s.



Spurn Jetty, Withernsea



rewarded by some marvellous views from the lamp room. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1976 and now houses two small museums. One is dedicated to the history of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution; the other to the actress Kay Kendall. Her grandfather helped build the lighthouse in 1892 and was the last coxswain of the deep sea lifeboat. Kay was born in Withernsea and later achieved great success in the London theatre as a sophisticated comedienne, but she is probably best remembered for the rousing trumpet solo she delivered in the ever-popular Ealing Studios film *Genevieve*.

South of Withernsea stretches a desolate spit of flat windswept dunes. This is **Spurn Point**, which leads to Spurn Head, the narrow hook of ever-shifting sands that curls around the mouth of the Humber estuary. This bleak but curiously invigorating tag end of Yorkshire is nevertheless heavily populated – by hundreds of species of rare and solitary wild fowl, by playful seals, and also by the small contingent of lifeboatmen who operate the only permanently manned lifeboat station in Britain. Please note that a toll is payable

beyond the village of Kilnsea, and there is no car park. Access to Spurn Head is only on foot.

Around Withernsea

HALSHAM

4 miles W of Withernsea off the B1362

Halsham was once the seat of the Constable family, Lords of Holderness, before they moved to

their new mansion at Burton Constable. On the edge of Halsham village, they left behind their imposing, domed mausoleum built in the late 1700s to house ancestors going back to the 12th century. The mausoleum is not open to the public but is clearly visible from the B1362 Hull to Withernsea road.

PATRINGTON

4 miles SW of Withernsea on the A1033

St Patrick's Church

Shortly after it was built, **St Patrick's Church** at Patrington was dubbed Queen of Holderness, and Queen it remains. This sublime church took more than 100 years to build, from around 1310 to 1420, and it is one of the most glorious examples of the eye-pleasing style known as English Decorated. Its spire soars almost 180 feet into the sky making it the most distinctive feature in the flat plains of Holderness. St Patrick's has the presence and proportions of a cathedral although only enjoying the status of a parish church. A parish church, nevertheless, which experts consider among the finest dozen churches in Britain noted for architectural beauty. Patrington's parish council go further: a notice

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displayed inside St Patrick's states unequivocally, "This is England's finest village Church." Clustering around it, picturesque Dutch-style cottages complete an entrancing picture, and just to the east of the village, the Dutch theme continues in a fine old windmill.

HEDON

10 miles W of Withernsea off the A1033

Town Hall

Founded around AD1130 by William le Gros, Lord of Holderness, Hedon quickly became a port and market town of great importance. A market still takes place every Wednesday in the square with its row of Georgian shops and early 19th-century dwellings. Nearby, in St Augustine's Gate, is the handsome **Town Hall**, built in 1692. From time to time, the town's Civic Silver Collection is on display here. It includes the oldest civic mace in the country, dating back to 1415. Hedon Museum (free) has displays of maps, photographs and artefacts relating to the history of Hedon and Holderness; these are changed regularly. Limited opening times.

PAULL

12 miles W of Withernsea off the A1033

Fort Paull

Fort Paull's role as a frontier landing and watch point goes back to at least Viking times. Henry VIII built a fortress here in the mid 1500s; a second fort was added at the time of the Napoleonic wars. Charles I based himself at Fort Paull for some time during the Civil War; Winston Churchill visited its anti-aircraft installations during World War Two.

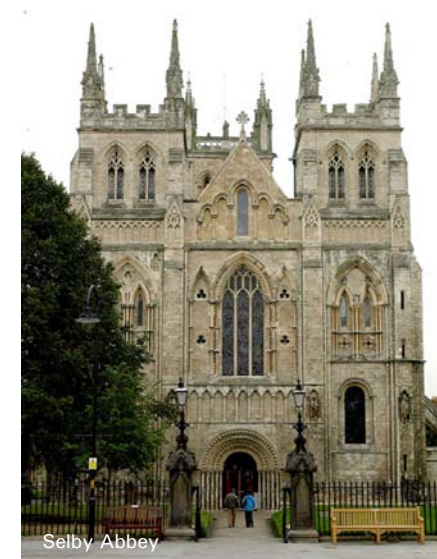
Today, the spacious 10-acre site offers a wide variety of attractions for all the family. In addition to the historical displays, including rare period and contemporary artillery, there

are classic military vehicles, an array of waxwork creations, a parade ground where re-enactments take place, an assault course for youngsters, a Bird of Prey Centre, museum, gift shop, bar and restaurant. The fort is open seven days a week, all year.

Selby

Abbey

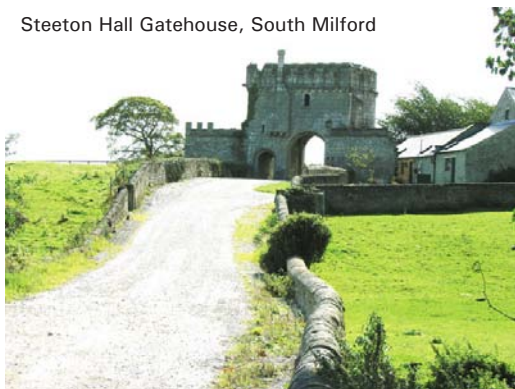
In 1069 a young monk named Benedict, from Auxerre in France, had a vision. It's not known exactly what the vision was but it inspired him to set sail for York. As his ship was sailing up the Ouse near Selby, three swans flew in formation across its bows. (Three swans, incidentally, still form part of the town's coat of arms.) Interpreting this as a sign of the Holy Trinity, Benedict promptly went ashore and set up a preaching cross under a great oak called the Stirhac. The small religious



community he established went from strength to strength, acquiring many grants of land and, in 1100, permission to build a monastery. Over the course of the next 120 years, the great **Selby Abbey** slowly took shape, the massively heavy Norman style of the earlier building gradually modulating into the much more delicate Early English style. The whole of the Abbey was built using a lovely cream-coloured stone.

Over the centuries this sublime church has suffered more than most. During the Civil War it was severely damaged by Cromwell's troops who destroyed many of its statues and smashed much of its stained glass. Then in 1690 the central tower collapsed. For years after that the Abbey was neglected, and by the middle of the 18th century a wall had been built across the chancel so that the nave could be used as a warehouse. That wall was removed during a major restoration in the 19th century, but in 1906 there was another calamity when a disastrous fire swept through the Abbey. Visiting this serene and peaceful church today it's difficult to believe that it has endured so many misfortunes and yet remains so beautiful. Throughout all the Abbey's troubles one particular feature survived intact

Steeton Hall Gatehouse, South Milford



– the famous Washington Window, which depicts the coat of arms of John de Washington, Prior of the Abbey around 1415 and a direct ancestor of George Washington. Prominently displayed in this heraldic device is the stars and stripes motif later adapted for the national flag of the United States. Guided tours of the cathedral are available.

Devotees of railway history will want to pay their respects to Selby's old railway station. Built at the incredibly early date of 1834 it is the oldest surviving station in Britain. From Selby the railway track runs straight as a ruler for 18 miles to Hull – the longest such stretch in Britain.

Around Selby

SOUTH MILFORD

9 miles W of Selby off the A162

Steeton Hall Gatehouse

About nine miles west of Selby, near the village of South Milford, is the imposing 14th-century **Steeton Hall Gatehouse**, all that remains of a medieval castle once owned by the Fairfax family. A forebear of the famous Cromwellian general is said to have ridden out from here on his way to carry off one of the nuns at Nun Appleton Priory to make her his bride. He was Sir William Fairfax; she was Isabel Thwaites, a wealthy heiress.

SHERBURN-IN-ELMET

10 miles W of Selby on the A162

All Saints' Church

This attractive village was once the capital of the Celtic Kingdom of Elmete. Well worth visiting is **All Saints' Church**, which stands on a hill

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to the west and dates from about 1120. Its great glory is the nave with its mighty Norman pillars and arcades. A curiosity here is a 15th-century Janus cross that was discovered in the churchyard during the 1770s. The vicar and churchwarden of the time both claimed it as their own. Unable to resolve their dispute, they had the cross sawn in half: the two beautifully carved segments are displayed on opposite sides of the south aisle.

RICCALL

4 miles N of Selby on the A19

Skipwith Common Nature Reserve

The ancient village of Riccall was mentioned in the Domesday Book and has a church that was built not long after. The south doorway of the church dates back to about 1160 and its fine details have been well-preserved by a porch added in the 15th century. The village's great moment in history came in 1066 when King Harold Hardrada of Norway and Earl Tostig sailed this far up the Ouse with some 300 ships. They had come to claim Northumbria from Tostig's half-brother King Harold of England, but they were comprehensively defeated at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

Riccall is popular with walkers: from the village you can either go southwards alongside the River Ouse to Selby, or strike northwards towards Bishopthorpe on the outskirts of York following the track of the dismantled York to Selby railway. This latter path is part of the 150-mile-long Trans Pennine Trail linking Liverpool and Hull.

Just to the south of Skipwith, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust maintains the **Skipwith Common Nature Reserve**. This 500 acres of

Skipwith Common Nature Reserve



lowland heath is one of the last such areas remaining in the north of England and is of national importance. The principal interest is the variety of insect and birdlife, but the reserve also contains a number of ancient burial sites.

WEST HADDLESEY

5 miles SW of Selby on the A19

Yorkshire Garden World

At **Yorkshire Garden World** gardeners will find endless inspiration in its six acres of beautiful display and nursery gardens. Organically grown herbs, heathers, ornamental perennials, wild flowers and climbers are all on sale; the gift shop has a huge variety of home-made crafts, herbal products, Leeds pottery and garden products; and the many different gardens include a Heather and Conifer Garden, an Aromatherapy Garden, an Open Air Herb Museum, a Lovers' Garden, and the Hall Owl Maze for children.

CARLTON

6 miles S of Selby on the A1041

Carlton Towers

A mile or so south of Camblesforth, off the A1041, is **Carlton Towers**, a stately home

that should on no account be missed. This extraordinary building, “something between the Houses of Parliament and St Pancras Station”, was created in the 1870s by two young English eccentrics, Henry, 9th Lord Beaumont, and Edward Welby Pugin, son of the eminent Victorian architect, AG Pugin. Together they transformed a traditional Jacobean house into an exuberant mock medieval fantasy in stone, abounding with turrets, towers, gargoyles and heraldic shields. The richly-decorated High Victorian interior, designed in the manner of medieval banqueting halls, contains a minstrels’ gallery and a vast Venetian-style drawing room. Both Beaumont and Pugin died in their forties, both bankrupt. Carlton Towers is now the Yorkshire home of the Duke of Norfolk and is open to the public during the summer months.

In Carlton village the Comus Inn is the only licensed premises in the country to bear that name. It is believed to have been named after the Greek god of sensual pleasure, Comus, the son of Bacchus.

About three miles northeast of Carlton is the village of Drax, which, as well as providing Ian Fleming with a sinister-sounding name for one of the villains in his James Bond thrillers, is also home to the largest coal-fired power station in Europe. Drax’s vast cooling towers dominate the low-lying ground between the rivers Ouse and Aire. The power station has found an unusual way of harnessing its waste heat by channelling some of it to a huge complex of glasshouses covering 20 acres; part of the heat goes to specially constructed ponds in which young eels are bred for the export market. Guided tours of the power station are available by prior arrangement.

GOOLE

10 miles SE of Selby on the A614

 Waterways Museum  Museum & Art Gallery

Britain’s most inland port, some 50 miles from the sea, Goole lies at the hub of a waterways network that includes the River Ouse, the River Don (known here as the Dutch River), the River Aire and the Aire & Calder Navigation. The **Waterways Museum**, located on the dockside, tells the story of Goole’s development as a canal terminus and also as a port connecting to the North Sea. The museum displays model ships and many photographs dating from 1905 to the present day, and visitors can explore an original Humber Keel, *Sobriety*, and watch crafts people at work. Occasional short boat trips are available.

More of the town’s history is in evidence at **Goole Museum and Art Gallery**, which focuses on the development of the port, the shipyard and the community with ship models, marine paintings (many by the distinguished Goole artist Reuben Chappell) and a changing programme of exhibitions. The Museum is located above Goole Library in the centre of town. Other attractions in the town include its refurbished Victorian Market Hall, open all year Wednesday to Saturday, and a well-equipped Leisure Centre, which provides a wide range of facilities for all ages.

HEMINGBROUGH

4 miles E of Selby off the A63

 St Mary’s Church

Anyone interested in remarkable churches should seek out **St Mary’s Church** at Hemingbrough. Built in a pale rose-coloured brick, it has an extraordinarily lofty and elegant spire soaring 190 feet high and, inside, what is

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believed to be Britain’s oldest misericord. Misericords are hinged wooden seats for the choir that can be folded back when they stand to sing. Medieval woodcarvers delighted in adorning the underside of the seat with intricate carvings. The misericord at Hemingbrough dates back to around 1200.

HOWDEN

9 miles E of Selby on the A63

 Minster  Wressle Castle

 Real Aeroplane Museum

Despite the fact that its chancel collapsed in 1696 and it has not been used for worship since, **Howden Minster** is still one of the largest parish churches in East Yorkshire and also one of its most impressive, cathedral-like in size. From the top of its soaring tower, 135 feet high, there are wonderful views of the



Howden Minster, Howden

surrounding countryside – but it’s not for the faint-hearted. The ruined chapter house, lavishly decorated with a wealth of carved mouldings, has been described as one of the most exquisite small buildings in England.

When the medieval Prince-Bishops of Durham held sway over most of northern England, they built a palace at Howden, which they used as a pied-à-terre during their semi-royal progresses and as a summer residence. The Hall of that 14th-century palace still stands, although much altered now.

Howden town is a pleasing jumble of narrow, flagged and setted streets with a picturesque stone and brick Market Hall in the marketplace. The celebrated aircraft designer Barnes Wallis knew Howden well: he lived here while working on the R100 airship, which was built at Hedon airfield nearby. It made its maiden flight in 1929 and successfully crossed the Atlantic. At the nearby Brighton Aerodrome, a World War Two heavy bomber base and cold war missile launch site, is the **Real Aeroplane Museum**, which illustrates the history of flight through the work of aviators from Yorkshire and elsewhere. Exhibits include a 1936 Percival Mew Gull racer, a 1940s Harvard and a British Miles Magister. Visits can be made by joining the Museum Club. Call 01757 289065 for details.

About four miles northwest of Howden are the striking remains of **Wressle Castle**, built in 1380 for Sir Henry Percy and the only surviving example in East Yorkshire of a medieval fortified house. At the end of the Civil War, three of the castle’s sides were pulled down and much of the rest was destroyed by fire in 1796. But two massive towers with walls six feet thick, the hall and kitchens remain. The castle is not open to the

public, but there are excellent views from the village road and from a footpath that runs alongside the River Derwent. A fine old windmill nearby provides an extra visual bonus.

Hull

 Wilberforce House Museum
  Maritime Museum
 Spurn Lightship
  Streetlife Transport Museum
 The Deep
  Ferens Art Gallery

During World War Two, Hull was mercilessly battered by the Luftwaffe: 7,000 of its people were killed and 92% of its houses suffered bomb damage. Then in the post-war years its once huge fishing fleet steadily dwindled. But Hull has risen phoenix-like from those ashes and is today the fastest-growing port in England. The port area extends for seven miles along the Humber with 10 miles of quays servicing a constant flow of commercial traffic arriving from, or departing for, every



Wilberforce's Statue, Hull

quarter of the globe. Every day, a succession of vehicle ferries link the city to the European gateways of Zeebrugge and Rotterdam. Hull is unmistakably part of Yorkshire, but it also has the freewheeling, open-minded character of a cosmopolitan port.

Hull's history as an important port goes back to 1293 when Edward I, travelling north on his way to fight the Scots, stopped off here and immediately recognised the potential of the muddy junction where the River Hull flows into the Humber. The king bought the land from the monks of Meaux Abbey (at the usual royal discount) and the settlement thenceforth was known as, Kinges town upon Hull.

The port grew steadily through the centuries and at one time had the largest fishing fleet of any port in the country with more than 300 trawlers on its register. The rather primitive facilities were greatly improved by the construction of a state-of-the-art dock in 1778. Now superseded, that dock has been converted into the handsome Queen's Gardens, one of the many attractive open spaces created by this flower-conscious city, which also loves lining its streets with trees, setting up fountains here and there, and planting flowerbeds in any available space. And waymarked walks such as the Maritime Heritage Trail and the Fish Pavement Trail make the most of the city's dramatic waterfront.

A visit to Hull is an exhilarating experience at any time of the year, but especially so in October. Back in the late 1200s the city was granted a charter to hold an autumn fair. This began as a fairly modest cattle and sheep mart, but over the centuries it burgeoned into the largest gathering of its kind in Europe. Hull Fair is now a nine day extravaganza occupying

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The Deep

Hull, East Yorkshire HU1 4DP

Tel: 01482 381000

website: www.thedeep.co.uk

Welcome to The Deep, one of the most spectacular aquariums in the world. This award-winning Yorkshire family attraction is home to 40 sharks and over 3,500 fish. The dramatic building designed by Sir Terry Farrell is located in Hull on the Humber Estuary, just an hour from York. The Deep is operated as a charity dedicated to increasing enjoyment and understanding of the world's oceans.

Behind the scenes a team of dedicated marine biologists care for all of the animals at The Deep as well as carrying out vital research into the marine environment. It first opened its doors in March 2002 and so far has welcomed over 2 million visitors from the UK and abroad.

Using a combination of hands on interactives, audiovisual presentations and living exhibits it tells the story of the world's oceans. Visitors will be taken on a journey from the beginning of time through to the present day oceans and the icy darkness of a futuristic Deep-Sea research lab, Deep Blue one.



a 14-acre site and offering every imaginable variety of entertainment. That takes care of October, but Hull also hosts an Easter Festival, an International Festival (some 300 events from mid June to late July), a Jazz on the Waterfront celebration (August), an International Sea Shanty Festival (September) and a Literature Festival in November.

Throughout the rest of the year, Hull's tourism office modestly suggests you explore its "Marvellous Museums – Fabulous and Free" – a quite remarkable collection of eight historic houses, art galleries and museums. Perhaps the most evocative is the **Wilberforce House Museum** in the old High Street. William Wilberforce was born here in 1759 and, later, it was from here that he and his father lavished thousands of pounds in bribes to get William elected as Hull's Member of Parliament. Nothing unusual about that kind of corruption at the time, but William then

redeemed himself by his resolute opposition to slavery. His campaign took more than 30 years and William was already on his deathbed before a reluctant Parliament finally outlawed the despicable trade. The museum presents a shaming history of the slave trade along with a more uplifting story of Wilberforce's efforts to eliminate it for ever. (01482 300300).

Other stars of the 'Magnificent Eight' are **The Ferens Art Gallery**, which houses a sumptuous collection of paintings and sculpture that ranges from European Old Masters (including some Canalettos and works by Franz Hals), to challenging contemporary British art; and the **Hull Maritime Museum**, which celebrates seven centuries of Hull's maritime heritage and includes displays on the whaling heritage (with a fine collection of scrimshaw), the North Sea fishing industry and maritime trade. A more unusual museum is the **Spurn Lightship**. Once stationed on

active duty 4.5 miles east of Spurn Point, the 200-ton, 33-metre long craft is now moored in Hull's vibrant Marina. Visitors can explore the 75-year-old vessel with the help of its knowledgeable crew. The city's noisiest museum is the **Streetlife Transport Museum**, which traces 200 years of transport history. Visitors are taken back to the days of horse-drawn carriages, steam trains, trams and penny-farthing cycles. There are curiosities such as the Velocipede, the Automobile à Vapeur (an early steam-driven car), and Lady Chesterfield's ornamental sleigh, decorated with a swan, rearing unicorn and a panoply of bells to herald her approach.

The Deep (see panel on page 279) advertises itself as the World's Only Submarium. Its huge main tank contains 2.5 million litres of water, 87 tonnes of salt – and some fearsome Sand Tiger and Leopard sharks. Visitors can walk the ocean floor in the world's deepest viewing tunnel, pilot a submarine in the futuristic research station - Deep Blue One - and ride in the underwater lift surrounded by sharks, rays, potato grouper, golden trevally, Napoleon wrasse and hundreds of other sea creatures.

Before leaving the city, make sure you see two of its more unusual features. Firstly, visitors to Hull soon become aware of its unique public telephones. They are still the traditional, curvy-topped, heavily-barred boxes, but with the distinctive difference that Hull's are all painted a gleaming white. What isn't apparent is that by some bureaucratic quirk, Hull remained the only municipally-owned telephone company in Britain until it was floated on the Stock Exchange, as Kingston Communications, early in 2000. The sale brought the City Council a huge windfall. The second unusual feature of Hull is found

in Nelson Street where you can avail yourself of award-winning loo's. These spotless conveniences, complete with hanging baskets of flowers, have become a tourist attraction in their own right. The poet Philip Larkin was the librarian of Hull University from 1955 until his death in 1985. His funeral was held in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, the University Church, and he is buried at Cottingham under a simple white gravestone inscribed "writer".

Around Hull

HESSLE

5 miles W of Hull off the A63

 **Humber Bridge**  **Humber Bridge Country Park**

At Hessle the River Humber narrows and it was here that the Romans maintained a ferry, the *Transitus Maximus*, a vital link in the route between Lincoln and York. The ferry remained in operation for almost 2000 years until it was replaced in 1981 by the **Humber Bridge**, whose mighty pylons soar more than 500 feet above the village.

It is undoubtedly one of the most impressive bridges on earth, and also one of the least used – someone described it as the least likely place in Britain to find a traffic jam. With an overall length of 2,428 yards (2,220m), it is one of the world's longest single-span bridges. For more than a third of a mile only four concrete pillars, two at each end, are saving you from a watery death. From these huge pylons, 510 feet (155m) high, gossamer cables of thin-wired steel support a gently curving roadway. Both sets of pylons rise vertically, but because of the curvature of the earth they actually lean away from each other by several inches. The bridge is

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particularly striking at night when the vast structure is floodlit.

The great bridge dwarfs Cliff Mill, built in 1810 to mill the local chalk. It remained wind-driven until 1925 when a gas engine was installed. Although it is no longer working, the mill provides a scenic feature within the **Humber Bridge Country Park**.

This well laid out park gives visitors a true back-to-nature tour a short distance from one of modern man's greatest feats of engineering. The former chalk quarry has been attractively landscaped, providing a nature trail, extensive walks through woodlands and meadows, picnic and play areas, and picturesque water features.

WELTON

10 miles W of Hull off the A63

A little further south is the pretty village of Welton where a stream flows past the green, under bridges and into a tree-encircled duck pond. It has a church dating from Norman times, which boasts a striking 13th-century doorway and Pre-Raphaelite windows made by William Morris' company of craftsmen. In the graveyard stands a memorial to Jeremiah Found, a resilient local reputed to have outlived eight wives.

The notorious highwayman Dick Turpin



Humber Bridge, Hessle

was not a local, but his villainous career came to an end at Welton village when he was apprehended inside the Green Dragon Inn. Local legend has it that this establishment gave him hospitality before he was taken off to the magistrates at Beverley who committed him to the Assizes at York where he was found guilty and hanged in 1739.

BRANTINGHAM

11 miles W of Hull off the A63

 **War Memorial**

The village of Brantingham, just off the A63, is worth a short diversion to see its remarkable **War Memorial**, once described as "lovingly awful". Conceived on a monumental scale, the memorial was built using masonry recycled from Hull's old Guildhall when that was being reconstructed in 1914. Various stone urns placed around the village came from the same source

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